

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for managing digital media files for a user, comprising the steps of:

providing an unique user icon that is associated with an unique user that can be used for allowing controlled access by an authorized party to digital media files based on the presence of said icon.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said icon is automatically associated with said digital media files as a result of capturing or transferring said digital media files.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said icon comprises a portion of an image of an individual.

4. A method for automatically forwarding a digital media file by a first party to a second party over a communication network, said digital media file having at least one digital image file and a digital information file, comprising the steps of;

analyzing a digital image media file for determining if an image content identifier is present, said image content identifier having an associated electronic address; and

automatically forwarding said digital image to said electronic address over said communication network if said image content identifier is present.

5. A method for identifying images for communication over a communication network, comprising the steps of:

displaying a digital image;

identifying a feature within said digital image;

creating an image content identifier based on said feature;

displaying, transmitting or storing a second digital image based on identifying the image content identifier within said second digital image.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the content identifier is based on parameters used for face recognition.

7. A method for identifying images for communication over a communication network, comprising the steps of:

analyzing a digital image;

identifying a feature within said digital image using an image content identifier;

displaying, transmitting or storing said image, based on identifying said feature within said image.

8. A method for creating an image content identifier for use in identifying images, comprising the steps of:

displaying a digital image;

identifying a feature within said digital image; and

creating an image content identifier, by storing the pixels which compose said feature.

9. A method according to claim 8 further comprising the step of:

associating an electronic address with said image content identifier.

10. A system for automatically sharing of images over a communication network, comprising:

obtaining at least one image identifier comprising an image content identifier and an associated electronic address;

analyzing digital images for determining if the said image content identifier substantially matches a portion of said images; and

automatically forwarding said images that substantially match said image content identifier over said communication network to said associated electronic address.

11. A system according to claim 10 wherein said images are forwarded to a fulfillment provider for providing goods and/or services with respect to said at least one digital image file.

12. A system for automatically sharing of digital images, comprising:

obtaining at least one image identifier, comprising an image content identifier and an associated address;

analyzing digital images for determining if the images substantially match said image content identifier; and

automatically forwarding said images that substantially match said image content identifier to said associated address.

13. A system for managing digital image files, comprising:

a server for receiving digital images, said server producing a low resolution version of said digital image files along with a unique user icon associated with a particular user, said icon having metadata that is searchable.

14. A system for managing digital images, comprising:

a server for receiving high resolution digital images associated with a user, said server having software for analyzing said digital images with respect to a content identifier associated with said user for allowing automatic cataloging of said digital images prior to transferring said digital images to the user computer.

15. A system according to claim 14 wherein said analyzing comprises a face recognition software program.

16. A computer software product for managing access to digital image files stored on a user computer, said computer software product which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to perform the following steps of:

providing an unique user icon that is associated with an unique user that can be used for allowing controlled access by an authorized party to said digital image file on said user computer using said icon.

17. A computer software product according to claim 16 wherein said software product is placed on service provider computer which can communicate with said user computer over a communication network.

18. A computer software product according to claim 16 wherein said software product is placed on user computer which can communicate with a user computer of said authorized party over a communication network.

19. A computer software product for creating an image content identifier for use in identifying images for communication over a communication network, said computer software product which when loaded into a computer of an image forming device causes the computer to perform the following steps of:

displaying a digital image;
identifying a feature within said digital image;
creating an image content identifier based on said feature;
displaying, transmitting or storing a second image based on identifying the feature within said second image

20. A computer software product for managing digital images comprising a computer readable storage medium having a computer program which when loaded into a computer of an image forming device causes the computer to perform the following steps of:

analyzing a digital image file;

displaying, transmitting or storing said image, based on identifying said image content identifier within said digital image file.

analyzing a digital media file for determining if an image content identifier is present in said digital media file having at least one digital image file, said image content identifier having an associated electronic address; and

22. A computer software product for allowing the automatic sharing of images on different computers, said software comprising a computer readable storage medium having a computer program which when loaded into a computer of an image forming device causes the computer to perform the following steps of:

analyzing digital image files for determining if the images represented by digital image files substantially match said image content identifier; and

23. A method for automatically obtaining images from a third party computer for a user over a communication network, comprising the steps of:

providing an image icon by a user on a user computer which identifies a particular type of an image that is to be automatically retrieved;

forwarding said image icon to a remote site over a communication network;

using said image icon at said remote site for identifying an image in accordance with a particular type of image;

forwarding said identified image to said user over communication network.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein said image icon comprises a face recognition analysis.

25. A method according to claim 23 wherein said user identifies the remote site wherein said image icon is to be placed.

26. A method according to claim 25 wherein said image icon includes the electronic address of said user where said image is to be sent.

27. A method according to claim 25 wherein said remote site provides consent to have its data base of digital images analyzed for determining if any images can be identified.

28. A system for automatically obtaining images from a third party computer for a user over a communication network, comprising:

a service provider for obtaining an image icon stored on a user computer which identifies a particular type of an image that is to be automatically retrieved for said user, said service provider forwarding said image icon to a remote site over a communication network wherein said remote site uses said image icon of said particular type of image at said remote site for identifying said particular type of image; said identified image is automatically obtained.

29. A method for automatically forwarding a digital media file by a first party to a second party over a communication network, said digital media file having at least one digital image file and a digital information file, comprising the steps of;

analyzing a digital image media file for determining if an image content identifier is present, said image content identifier having an associated electronic address;

automatically forwarding said digital image to said electronic address over said communication network if said image content identifier is present;

automatically updating said content identifier to reflect a change.

30. A method according to claim 29 wherein said content identifier is the appearance of an individual and said change in appearance.

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